

is never complete. The common feature of social gathering is dancing, singing with drums and other musical instruments. Drinking is another important feature in such festive occasions.

2. Women in Economic Life:

Since Hrangkhol family is patriarchal in system women are always subordinated to menfolk in every sphere of life and are confined to household duties. As Sumchonlal writes in his B.D. thesis, "The Hrangkhol family is a patriarchal system. The father is the head who exercised an arbitrary power in the family matter, while the mother is only to take care of their children and housekeeping".³⁴

However although women have no say in the decision making process, they are required to work alongside men in producing food for the family. Both men and women actively work in shifting cultivation. Common crops cultivated are rice, bean, vegetables of many varieties. Mean while, women are compelled and entrusted with the rearing of domestic animals like pigs, cows, buffaloes and fowls etc. in order to improve the income of their family which becomes their fond habit. However women have no full autonomy to run their domestic affairs on their own, but have to receive consent of their husbands and other senior male members in the family. But now, educated women are employed in the government service and become bread earners and support their families. Their status is undergoing positive changes.

3. Women in Political Life:

In political life women have no right to raise their voice. They should abstain from active discussion in such matter. Right from the beginning Hrangkhols have a democratic tradition in political life. Historian like S. Barkataki writes, "The Rangkhols have a democratic tradition. Their villages are administered by a group of

³⁴ Sumchonlal Hrangkhol, op.cit., p. 12